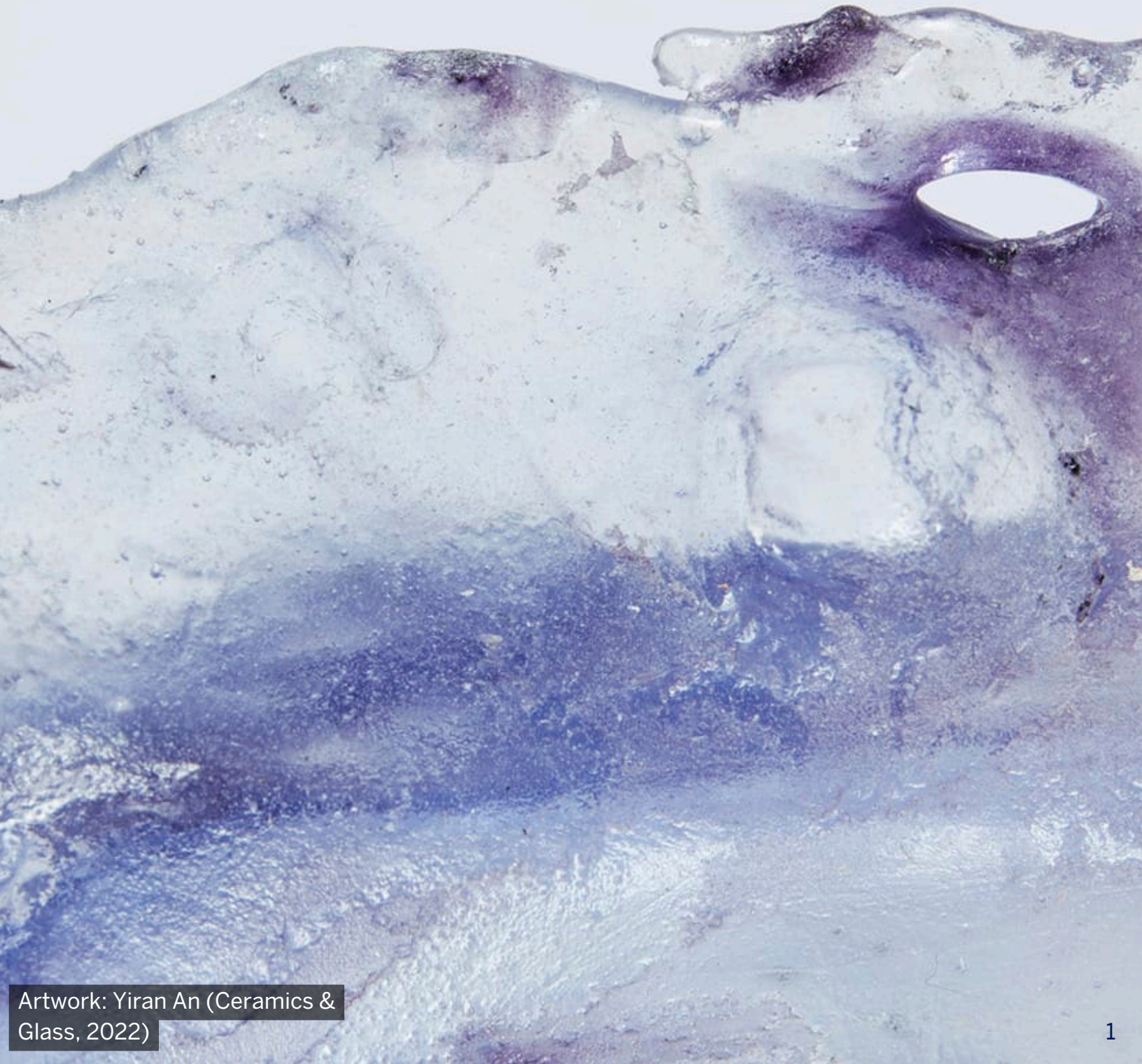


RCA

Associate Industry Project Designer

November 2025



Artwork: Yiran An (Ceramics &
Glass, 2022)

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Photo: Richard Haughton

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WELCOME TO THE RCA



Photo: Iwan Baan

- Founded in 1837, the Royal College of Art is the world's largest community of postgraduate art and design students. It is also the oldest art and design university in continuous operation and has been ranked as the world's number one art and design university for a remarkable eleven consecutive years, according to the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025 – the worldwide survey of academic and industry opinion.

The RCA is research-led and recognised in the UK-wide REF (Research Excellence Framework) as the UK's most research-intensive institution – with an increased proportion of the College's outputs classed as 'internationally excellent' and 'world-leading' in the most recent REF assessment of 2021.

Studying at the RCA is the starting point for the world's creative leaders. With more than 25,000 RCA alumni across the globe, the RCA's graduates form a unique international network of artists, designers, creators, and innovators. Every year, RCA alumni are recognised as leaders in their discipline, making national and international headlines for their work, which shapes the world we live in. Its graduate start-up incubator, InnovationRCA, is one of the most successful in the country with a high proportion of female start-up founders and a high 'survival' percentage after five years of trading.

More than 2,800 students are spread across four schools and research and academic departments, studying at Graduate Diploma, MA, MFA, MDes, MArch, MEd, MRes, MPhil and PhD levels. The College's mix of professionalism and creative freedom, together with its renowned academic community and rigorous academic framework provides the ecosystem in which students flourish and achieve their highest potential.



Photo: Richard Haughton

In addition, the RCA has a number of established and planned research centres: the Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design; the Material Science Research Centre (which includes the Materials Futures Research Group and the Textiles Circularity Centre); the Intelligent Mobility Design Centre, Computer Science Research Centre, and a future centre in Drawing. The RCA is also home to one of the UK's most successful university incubators, InnovationRCA.

The RCA espouses a hybrid approach, supporting 'traditional' making and technical skills in fine and applied art and design alongside the foundational sciences, engineering and technology which underpin designers' ability to solve today's global challenges. The RCA champions the value of interdisciplinary learning and was the first art and design university in the world to implement a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Design and Mathematics) academic vision, with investment in new faculty posts in Materials Science; Computer Science and Robotics alongside art and design disciplines. By applying creative insights to evidence-based science, its staff, students, researchers and start-ups are addressing major global challenges such as rapid urbanisation and transport; loss of biodiversity; ageing populations; unsustainable consumption and production; and the rise of AI.

Our Strategy

The RCA's strategic vision is to increase its influence on the world stage of globally ranked universities, punching significantly above its weight, and attracting, supporting and convening the world's most talented faculty, students, artists, designers and creative leaders.

Our People



Photo: Richard Haughton

The role of Royal Visitor to the RCA was taken on by the former Prince of Wales – now His Majesty The King – in 2018. The announcement of HM The King's retained Patronage of the RCA marks the first anniversary of Their Majesties' Coronation. As part of the official Coronation Concert in May 2023, the Royal College of Art along with The Royal Ballet, The Royal Opera, the Royal Shakespeare Company, and the Royal College of Music came together for the first time ever to create a spectacular one-off performance, with a striking visual backdrop of specially-designed artworks contributed by students from the Royal College of Art.

The RCA's Chancellor is Sir Jony Ive, and the Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council is Sir Peter Bazalgette. The RCA's President & Vice-Chancellor – the CEO of the institution – is Professor Christoph Lindner who joined the College in April 2024.

The RCA's academic faculty bring world-leading expertise and industry knowledge to the practice-based model of teaching. There is a core academic and research workforce of 196 FTE, supported by around 215 Associate Lecturers and a wide range of Guest Lecturers who bring 'live' industry experience into the taught curriculum – for example, Amin Taha of GrantOn design, whose work was twice shortlisted for the RIBA Stirling Prize, in 2017 and 2021, teaches in the School of Architecture; and Yao Yingjia, who is Vice President and Chief Designer at Lenovo teaches in the School of Design.

The RCA combines contemporary and industry-focused teaching perspectives. It also employs a team of 95 highly skilled technicians, many of whom themselves have postgraduate qualifications in their fields of specialism, which range from rapid prototyping and subtractive manufacturing to film and sound engineering, and from digital modelling to metal fabrication and jewellery making.

Our Values



Photo: Shaun James

The RCA community operates in line with four agreed values:



We have a tenacious commitment to innovation and openness to change. We positively interrogate ideas, assumptions and plans and welcome the honest scrutiny that is alive in a learning community.



We celebrate diversity and embrace difference as a source of strength. We strive for an inclusive RCA community, removing barriers and challenging exclusionary and discriminatory practices.



We value what happens together and we help and support each other to achieve our collective goals. We work in partnership with our students, staff, alumni, institutions and communities across the globe to make a lasting difference.



We are always willing to listen, we offer constructive feedback and we promote accountability, building relationships of mutual trust and respect. We are resilient in the face of challenges, pursuing outcomes with individual, cultural, societal and economic impact.

Intelligent Mobility Design Centre



About the Centre

The IMDC is an interdisciplinary centre exploring, experimenting, prototyping and evaluating new mobility and automotive transitions via the synthesis of design and research methods. It integrates design and technology with insights into people and the social, environmental and economic context to enable a 360 view on the design of future mobility.

The IMDC is organised into three distinct yet complementary Studios enabling a multifaceted perspective on mobility design:

- The Automotive Transitions Studio is focussed on vehicle design and explores the paradigm shifts of the car industry and culture, and its transition to sustainability.
- The Humanising Technology Studio explores how mobility experiences and services may be transformed by the impact of emerging technologies.
- The People & Places Studio explores the relationships between society, place-making and our transport systems.

The IMDC collaborates with business, academic, government and voluntary sector partners and exchanges knowledge via education, events, publications and industrial collaboration and strategic partnerships. Uniquely, the Centre incorporates the Intelligent Mobility MA programme bringing together researchers and students to cultivate excellent research and design outputs. Via the MA programme, it is pioneering new teaching in a subject area traditionally focused on design skills rather than research focused.

Associate Industry Project Designer



About the project

Creative Sustainability

The Creative Sustainability project explores how the automotive industry can be transformed by sustainable design and evolve new solutions and strategies leading to holistic, system level transitions towards zero emissions. Specifically, how can we capitalise on the designer's mindset to facilitate creative and radical approaches, interdisciplinary practice and adopt a more experimental and inquisitive way of working.

The objective of the project is to develop circular automotive design solutions considering the quadruple bottom line of sustainability, encompassing environmental, economic, socio-ethic as well as subjective aspects of sustainability. The project explores concepts of Circular Economy, Cradle-to-Cradle, Pace Layering, Design for Disassembly and applies them to automotive design concepts. It investigates circular economy solutions for both biocycles and techno-cycles.

This post involves making a significant contribution to the automotive sector addressing the challenges of sustainability through the production of innovative solutions from design. This post will deliver design and research outputs and support the development of funding applications for future research opportunities linked to the Creative Sustainability project.



Main duties and responsibilities:

- To work closely with the Principal Investigator (Dale Harrow) and Co-Investigator (Artur Mausbach) undertaking high-quality and rigorous collaborative design research activities leading to robust outputs.
- To deliver design research for the Hyundai Kia Innovation Laboratory, developing a day-to-day plan for project activity within the framework of the agreed programme, coordinating with the project team to ensure alignment with overall goals.
- To be available to support additional projects within the Centre up to a maximum of 0.5 days per week with the agreement of the Principal Investigator, and Co-Investigator.
- To support design research, including setting up, and conducting field work or user research, running workshops, stakeholder analysis, user journey mapping, ideation, concept design, detailed design, or other activities as appropriate to the project methods. In particular this will focus on biomaterials, disassembly, lightweighting and sustainable design approaches and solutions in automotive design using desktop research, surveys, and expert interviews and workshops.
- To support, record and document the outcomes of the project, providing specific outputs as agreed with the project lead. These may include providing design exemplars, reports, presentations, or academic output.
- To participate in the development of models and prototypes, using analog and digital means of model making.
- To contribute to the production of design research concepts from the findings from project stages and deliver high quality automotive design outputs.



Photo: Richard Houghton

Main duties and responsibilities (cont):

- To prepare project reports and presentations in collaboration with Project Team members, communicating findings of the research to all project partners and the Funder in consultation with the Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator. To ensure that project outputs are properly documented and disseminated to key audiences, via reports, papers, exhibits, publications, the website etc.
- To support a team research culture that reflects best practice in research conduct, including ethics, research integrity and research data ensuring compliance with relevant funding body processes and reporting requirements, and RCA guidelines. This includes the use and procurement of IT equipment and other equipment and facilities and to liaise with the RCA's Research and KE Office staff, Information, Learning and Technical Services staff and others to achieve this.
- To ensure confidentiality on all matters and information obtained during the course of employment.
- To ensure all aspects of the work undertaken are compliant with health and safety rules.
- To respect the confidentiality of data stored electronically and by other means in line with the Data Protection Act.
- To undertake relevant training and development opportunities.
- To use and develop IMDC design research techniques and methods and contribute ideas from the project into the Centre's portfolio of methods and projects.

Person Specification

Essential (request a portfolio is uploaded for assessment)

- Master's degree level qualification in vehicle design, intelligent mobility design, automotive engineering or equivalent.
- Experience in 2D and 3D automotive design techniques and concept development including digital modelling, Photoshop, managing rapid prototyping, and hand sketching.
- Evidence of knowledge on sustainable automotive design, exploring circular economy, biomaterials and design for disassembly.
- Evidenced experience of contributing to and reporting on projects.
- Demonstrable ability to be a collaborative member of a team, working constructively with senior staff and supporting the work of colleagues or students involved in projects.
- Flexibility and confidence to tackle a wide range of tasks, with an open, proactive, creative and problem-solving approach.
- Strong interpersonal skills.
- Commitment to the aims of the project and interest in design research and sustainability
- Genuine commitment to the aims of the Centre

Desirable experience and skills:

- Experience of working on collaborative projects, preferably involving academia and industry collaborations in a relevant field.
- Good writing, communication and presentation skills, with the ability to adopt an appropriate style for a range of specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- Experience of inclusive design methods and techniques, including an understanding of or work with user groups and participants
- Commitment to the aims of the project and interest in design research and sustainability



Photo: Iwan Baan

Pay & Benefits

Additional Information:

- Responsible to: Principal Investigator
- Full time salary: Grade 7 - £44,693 - £48,269 per annum including London Allowance
- 1FTE - 35 hours per week & fixed term until 5.9.2027
- 30 days annual leave plus extended breaks at Christmas and Easter, at the discretion of the College. Pro rata for part time employees
- A contributory defined benefit pension scheme and interest-free season ticket loan are available alongside many other benefits
- Location: Battersea
- Department: Intelligent Mobility Design Centre



Photo: Philip Vale

Pension

The Royal College of Art is a member of the Superannuation Arrangements of the University of London (SAUL) which is a contributory defined benefit pension scheme. The college will contribute a sum equal to 16% of your salary while you pay 6%.

Holiday

30 days paid leave a year plus bank and public holidays normally observed in England and Wales. In addition, the college is normally closed for six days a year, one day on either side of Easter and the remainder between Christmas and New Year. Part-time staff will be entitled to the pro rata equivalent.

Season ticket loans

Interest-free loans are available for staff to purchase annual season tickets.

Enhanced maternity and adoption pay

Qualifying employees are entitled to enhanced maternity/adoption pay: 26 weeks' full pay, 13 weeks Statutory Maternity/Adoption Pay. This compares to the statutory provision of 90% of average pay for 6 weeks followed by Statutory Maternity/Adoption Pay for 33 weeks.

Enhanced paternity pay

Qualifying employees are entitled to six weeks' paternity leave entitlement at full pay.

Enhanced sick pay

Occupational sick pay after three months' service is three months full pay/three months half pay.

24/7 confidential support

Staff and family members in their household have access to a free, external confidential support service for work, financial, legal, family and personal problems 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Occupational health

Occupational Health support for the College is provided by Imperial College's occupational health service at their South Kensington Campus.

Life Cover

Active members of the SAUL pension scheme automatically receive life cover. A lump sum of four times your salary together with a refund of your contributions and a 2/3 pension for your dependent/spouse is payable should you die whilst in employment.

Library

All staff are welcome to join the college library.

Events

All staff are welcome to attend exhibitions, lectures and private views held by academic schools and programmes.



Equality, diversity and inclusion - Disability and neurodiversity

Disability Confident

RCA is a Disability Confident Committed employer. You may recognise the logo from our job adverts.

Disability Confident is a government scheme designed to encourage employers to recruit, retain, and develop disabled people. RCA was originally awarded the Disability Confident certificate in October 2022, which broadens and deepens our existing commitment as an employer.

As a Disability Confident Committed employer, we commit to the below core activities:

- ensure our recruitment process is inclusive and accessible
- communicating and promoting vacancies
- offering an interview to disabled people who meet the minimum criteria for the job
- anticipating and providing reasonable adjustments as required
- supporting any existing employee who acquires a disability or long-term health condition, enabling them to stay in work
- at least one activity that will make a difference for disabled people





11 years
as the world's
N°1 University
for Art & Design

QS World University Rankings
by Subject 2015-25

Together, the RCA community can generate change now for a sustainable future everywhere.